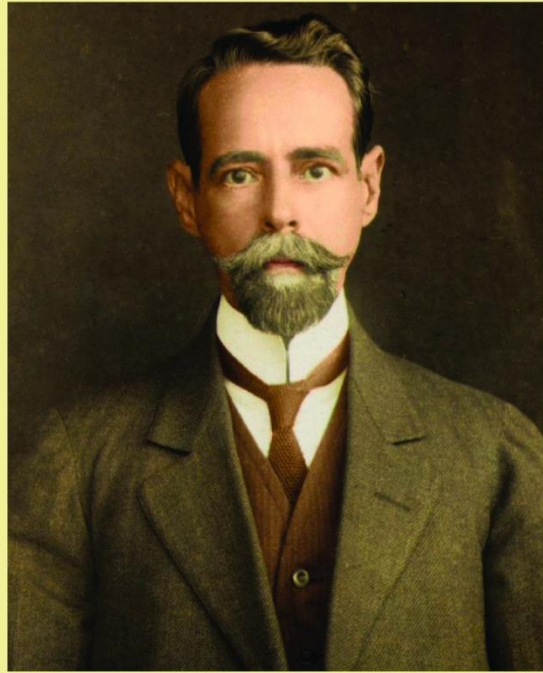




SPIRITIST PRAYERS



CAIRBAR SCHUTEL



PREAMBLE

The Spirits always say: *"Form is nothing, thought is everything. Pray according to your convictions and as you please; a good thought is worthier than numerous words from which the heart is absent."*

Spirits don't prescribe any definitive formula for prayer; when they offer them to us, they have in mind to fix ideas and, above all, to awaken our attention to certain principles of the Spiritist Doctrine. At other times, they do so to help people who have difficulty formulating their ideas, for many would believe that they haven't prayed, as their thoughts were not well expressed.

The collection of prayers in this booklet results from a choice made among various prayers dictated to us by the

Spirits in different circumstances. They could have dictated others, in other terms, appropriate to certain ideas or specific cases. However, the manner doesn't matter if the thought is the same.

The purpose of prayer is to elevate our souls to God. The diversity of formulas should not make any difference between those who believe or disbelieve in their efficacy and even less so amid adherents of Spiritism, as God accepts all prayers if they are sincere.

It is imperative to understand that the following compilation is not to be regarded as an absolute form, but as variations based on the instructions provided by the Spirits.

These instructions contain an application of evangelical morality principles and should be viewed as a complement to the spiritual guidelines regarding our duties towards God and our neighbors. Such principles recall the essence of the Spiritist Doctrine.

Spiritism recognizes good the prayers of all cults, since they are said from the heart and not by the lips; it imposes and repudiates none.

God is too grand, it says, to ignore the voice that begs for Him or praises Him just because it does it a certain way and not another.

Whoever casts anathema on those who are not on his form will only prove that they are ignorant of God's greatness.

Believing in God by sticking to a formula lends Him the smallness and the passions of humanity.

One of the prayer's essential conditions, by Paul the Apostle (XXVII, 16), is that it be intelligible; so that it speaks to our spirit.

That's why it's not enough to say it in a language understandable to the person praying. There are prayers formulated in such vulgar language that they say no more to the mind than if they were in a foreign language and, for this very reason, do not reach the heart. The few ideas they contain are often drowned out by the overabundance of words and the mysticism of the language.

The most outstanding quality of prayer is to be clear, simple, and concise, without useless phraseology or the luxury of epithets, which are nothing more than tinsel.

Each word must have its scope, reveal an idea, and produce the vibration of the soul fiber. In a word, it must lead to reflection. Only in this conditioned way can prayer achieve its goal. Otherwise, it's just noise. Observe with what an air of distraction and with what volubility they are generally recited; we can see the lips moving, but the expression of the face and even the sound of the voice put us in front of a machinelike, purely external act, to which the soul remains indifferent.

This compilation of prayers is divided into five categories, namely, General Prayers, Prayers for oneself, Prayers for the living, Prayers for the dead, and Particular prayers for the sick and the obsessed. Each prayer is accompanied by a preliminary instruction, known as "Action of the Prayer", which explains the purpose of the prayer and makes it easier to understand its scope.

Allan Kardec

I GOD

~What is God?

He is the supreme intelligence of the Universe.

The primary cause of all things.

~What is the proof of God's existence?

Everything proves the existence of God: the wonders of Creation, us, our senses, and all our organs. Everything that man has not made is the work of God.

~Does God have a human form?

No. God is Spirit, He is everywhere, and His intelligence radiates from every point in the Universe.

~What proves that God is everywhere?

The admirable order and wisdom manifested in the smallest as in the most significant things. The souls that rise to Him on the wings of prayer feel His presence and the power of His immense love, which extends to all beings without exception.

~So, God is the supreme source of Goodness and Justice?

Yes, He is the spring from which we draw the energy we need to develop our intellectual and moral faculties.

~Is there more than one person in God?

Reason tells us that God is a single, indivisible Being. The more we progress and put on the Christian virtues, the more we will understand God.

II

RELIGION

~What is Religion?

It is the science that leads us to God, making us aware of our duties and destiny after death.

~What is its summary?

Loving God with all our heart, all our mind, and our neighbor as ourselves.

~What must one do to love God?

- 1) Raising the soul to Him in prayer
- 2) Having confidence in His Justice, in His Goodness.
- 3) Being charitable, that is, relieving and consoling those who suffer and doing the unfortunate all the good that one can do.
- 4) Devoting ourselves to the study of His law, which is religion.

~What should we do to love our neighbor?

Doing to our neighbor, in proportion to our possibilities, everything we wish others to do to us.

~Is it permissible to hate those who hurt us?

Religion consists of the practice of Charity, and Charity commands us always to forgive and to answer evil with good.

III

SPIRITIST MORAL

~What is Morality?

It is the set of rules that must be followed to do good and avoid evil.

~What are the Morals taught by Spiritism?

Spiritism reproduces the Morals of Jesus, which are summed up as "Doing good to those who hate us and praying by those who persecute and slander us."

~What does the practice of Morals consist of?

In the following virtues: beneficence, affability, generosity, humility, indulgence, patience, probity, temperance, work and order.

IV

PRAYER

~What is prayer?

Prayer is the elevation of our soul towards God, and through it, we enter communication with Him and draw closer to Him.

~Does God listen to those who pray with faith and fervor?

God always sends you good spirits to help you.

~Is prayer pleasing to God?

Yes, because it's an act of humility; it's the recognition of our weaknesses and our inferiority, evoking the help of the Higher Powers, who are always willing to answer our pleas.

~What can we say about machine prayers repeated countless times?

We have already said that God's benevolence does not focus on formulas and the number of words but on the intentions of those who pray. Endless litanies and prayers uttered with the lips, which the heart doesn't feel, and the intellect doesn't understand, have no value before God. Jesus said:

“Don't be like the hypocrites who think that by talking a lot, God will hear them. The main thing is to pray well and not too much.”

~Who should we pray for?

For ourselves, our relatives, friends, and enemies here and in the spiritual dimension. We should pray for those who suffer and those for whom no one prays.

~Is it permissible to receive payment for prayers made for others?

Don't you know the passage in the Gospel about Jesus driving the merchants out of the temple? Remember that God does not sell His mercy, and no one should traffic in holy things.

B ~ Instructions from the Spirits

“When you come forward to pray, if you have a complaint against anyone, forgive him so your Father in heaven may also forgive your sins. If you do not pardon them, your Father will not pardon your sins either.” –

JESUS. (Mark 11:25-26)

If you have any resentment against someone, before you pray, forgive them, for prayer is no longer pleasing to God if it doesn't come from a charitable heart. Prayer is an expression of love and humility, and those who raise themselves through prayer to the Supreme Creator must clothe themselves in Humility and Love to enter the Sacred Temple of Divine Mercy. Pray to the Supreme, and ask Him to forgive your sins, but remember: for your prayer to be heard, you must also forgive your offenders.

VICENTE DE PAULO.

V

ACTION OF PRAYER

Transmission of Thoughts

Prayer is an invocation. Through it, we put our thoughts in contact with the entity we are addressing. It can be a request, a thanks, or a glorification. It can be said for oneself or the dead.

Prayers addressed to God are heard by the Spirits in charge of executing His will; those directed to good Spirits are taken to God. When you pray to beings other than God, it is directed to intermediaries or intercessors, as nobody can obtain anything without God's will.

*

Spiritism makes us understand the action of prayer by explaining the process of thought transmission: either the being for whom we pray comes to our call or our thought reaches them (see "**The Gospel According to Spiritism**").

For us to make it clear, it is significant to consider that all beings, incarnate and discarnate, are immersed in the same universal fluid that occupies space, just as we are in the atmosphere on this planet. This fluid receives an impulse from the will. It is the vehicle of sound, except that the vibrations of the air are circumscribed, whereas those of the universal fluid extend to infinity.

Thus, as soon as a thought is led towards any being on Earth or in space, from incarnate to disincarnate or vice versa, a fluidic current is established from one to the other, transmitting thoughts like air transmits sound. The energy

of the current is in proportion to the thought and energy's will. It is by this means that prayer is heard by spirits wherever they may be; they communicate with each other; they transmit their inspirations to us, and their relationships are established at a distance between incarnates, etc.

This explanation is mainly given to those who don't understand the usefulness of purely mystical prayer.

Its purpose is not to materialize prayer, but to proportionate to it an intelligible effect.

It demonstrates that it can have an effective direct action, without thereby ceasing to be subordinate to the will of God, the Supreme Judge of all things, on whom alone the effectiveness of the action depends.

Allan Kardec.

VI

Collection of Spiritist Prayers

1

Sunday Prayer

Preface

The Spirits recommended placing the "Sunday Prayer" at the head of the collection, not only as a prayer but also as a symbol.

Considering all the prayers, this is the one they set first, either because it came from Jesus Himself (Matthew, chapter 6, vs. 9 to 13) or because it can supply all the others, depending on the feeling that it is impregnated.

It is the perfect model of conciseness, a true masterpiece of sublimity in its simplicity.

Indeed, in the most restricted form, it summarizes all man's duties towards God, Himself, and his neighbor.

It contains a profession of faith, an act of worship and obedience, the request for things necessary for life, and the principle of Charity. Saying it because of someone's intention means asking them what you would ask for yourself.

However, even because of its brevity, the profound meaning contained in the few words that make it up escapes many people, and so they usually say it without thinking about the applications of each of its parts; they pronounce it as a formula whose effectiveness is proportional to the number of times it is repeated.

Frequently consonant with the cabalistic numbers, THREE, SEVEN, and NINE, are taken from the ancient superstitious

belief in the virtue of numbers and used in magic operations.

To fill the vacuum that the conciseness of this prayer leaves in the mind and following the advice and assistance of the good Spirits, a commentary has been added to each proposition that develops its meaning and demonstrates its applications.

2

PRAYER

I - Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name!

We believe in You, Lord because everything reveals Your power and goodness. The harmony of the Universe bears witness to wisdom, prudence, and foresight that exceeds all human faculties; the name of a sovereignly great and wise Being is inscribed on all the works of Creation, from the most insignificant bush and the tiniest insect, until in the stars that move through space.

Everywhere, we see the proof of paternal solicitude; blind is he who does not recognize You in Your works, proud is he who does not glorify You, and ungrateful is he who does not thank You.

II ~ Your kingdom come!

May the kingdom of peace and Charity, instituted by Your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be known and obeyed by everyone so that evil will cease in this world. Human intelligence and reason clarify in the light of divine truths, of which they are carriers of Your Holy Spirits, so the disbelief disappears from the Earth, and everyone can recognize You as the only true God and Jesus Christ, the sovereign Master whom You have sent.

III ~ Your will be done on Earth as in Heaven!

Help us to observe Your laws and to submit to Your divine decrees without murmuring, for You are the source of wisdom and love, and we, inferior ones, must satisfy Your will.

IV ~ Give us today our daily bread.

Bestow on us material nourishment to keep our bodies strong and spiritual sustenance for the development of our spirit.

Provide us a love of work: material and spiritual work, so that we do not remain stationary on the Road of Life and help those in need with our gifts. Give us, then, Lord, our daily bread, that is, the means to acquire through work the things necessary for the life of the body and the Spirit.

V ~ Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lord, You made an express law of Charity for us, and outside that Law, we could not claim for Your indulgence.

If we refuse pardon to those we complain about, what right could we have to claim pardon for what we have committed against You?

If it pleases You to remove us from this world this very day, allow us to present ourselves before You, pure of all animosity; following the example of Christ, whose final words of indulgence were for his executioners.

VI ~ Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Grant us the courage to resist the suggestions of the evil spirits who, to divert us from the path of good, inspire us with bad thoughts.

Sustain us and instill us through the voice of the Guardian Angels and the good Spirits, the will to correct our imperfections to close our souls to the access of impure spirits.

VII ~ So be it!

So be it; may it please You, Lord, that our wishes come true, yet we bow before Your infinite wisdom.

3

Evocation to Jesus

Jesus, Lord, and Master, who directs the spiritualization movement everywhere, have Your sights on all those who implore Your assistance.

Include the Messengers of God, and especially the multitude that constitutes the Spirit of Truth, the Consoler Spirit, so they may guide us on the Path of Good and provide us with relief in suffering and consolation in our afflictions.

May they be a support for us and defend us from all evil.

Lord, protect those who wish to begin in Your doctrine and bring them the light of understanding for the appropriate comprehension of Your words.

May Your Peace be upon us.

Another

Jesus, watch over us so that we may keep the unity of spirit, surround us with Your protection, and may it be an unsurmountable wall against adverse elements.

We ask You to request divine mercy for all the suffering spirits, both incarnate and disincarnate, around us. Take

away their discouragement and render them courageous, faithful, and hopeful for a better future. Surround them with Good Spirits, Your Angels, pardon their faults, and encourage them to continue the right path, cultivate forgiveness, and help others.

Jesus, may Your blessings descend upon us.

4

Spiritist Meetings

For the Beginning of the Theoretical Meetings

Lord God: let us begin our evangelical and philosophical studies, for which we ask the assistance of Your Messengers, so that they may enlighten our intelligence and provide us the discernment to understand well what we are about to learn.

Above all, we pray for our Spiritual Guide to be with us and preside over our meeting.

5

End of the Theoretical Meetings

We thank You, Lord God, for the light You have offered us, and we ask that these lessons be engraved on our souls. We also ask that they be fruitful to all the spirits who attended this meeting.

6

For the Beginning of Practical Meetings

We ask You, Lord God Almighty, to send us good spirits to assist us. Drive away those who might mislead us and grant us the light we need to distinguish truth from imposture.

We ask You, Lord, also to keep away the evil spirits, incarnate or discarnate, who might try to spread disunity among us and turn us away from the love of our neighbor.

If any of these spirits try to introduce themselves here, help us, so that they do not find access into the hearts of any of us.

Good Spirits, who deign to come and instruct us, make us docile to your advice.

Turn away from us all thoughts of selfishness, pride, envy, and jealousy. Inspire us with indulgence and benevolence towards our fellow human beings, present and absent, friends or enemies.

In short, please enable us to recognize Your salutary influence through the feelings with which we are imbued.

Please grant the mediums You have assigned the mission of spreading Your teachings the awareness of their mandate's sanctity and the seriousness of the act they are about to perform.

God, we ask Your assistance to enable them with the dedication, recollection, and devotion necessary for this duty.

If there are people at the meeting who were attracted by feelings other than those of good also, open their eyes to

the light and pardon them, just as we pardon them if they have come with bad intentions. We especially ask our Spiritual Guide to assist us and watch over us.

7

To Close the Practical Meetings

We thank the superior Spirits who have communicated with us, and we ask them to help us follow their instructions.

May they ensure that, as we leave, each of us feels strengthened in the practice of good and love of neighbor.

We also hope such instructions are profitable to the suffering, ignorant, and vicious spirits who have attended this meeting, for whom we implore the mercy of God.

8

For Mediums

Almighty God, may the good Spirits assist me in the communications I request.

Preserve me from the presumption of believing myself free from the influence of evil spirits, from the pride that could divert me from any feeling of charity towards other mediums.

If I am misled, inspire someone else with the thought of warning me, and granting me the humility which will make me welcome the warning with gratitude, accepting

it as my own, and not someone else's, the advice that the good Spirits decided to give me.

If I might misuse or boast about the gift You have granted me, I beg You rather annihilate it than allow it to be diverted from its providential purpose, which is the good of all and my moral advancement.

9

To Start the Development Meetings of Mediums

Spiritual friends who share the same belief that animates us, we have gathered here to develop our mediumistic gifts.

To achieve our goal, we humbly ask for your assistance as spiritual friends in the name of Jesus.

May each of us use our faculties to the development of the progress we have come here to realize, and once developed, we make good use of these talents for our neighbor's good so that God be glorified.

10

For the Closing

We thank the friendly Spirits who protected and worked with us. We ask them to follow in our footsteps in life so that we can spiritualize and achieve the goals of the earthly existence granted to us.

May the Supreme Lord be glorified, and Jesus bless us.

11

To the Guardian Angels and Guardian Spirits

Beloved spirits, Guardian Angels, you, whom God, in His infinite mercy, allows to watch over Humankind, be our protectors in the trials of earthly life.

Enable us to have firmness, courage, and resignation; inspire us with all that is good, and repress our inclination to evil.

May your gentle influence penetrate our souls, and help us see a devoted friend near us, consoling our sufferings and sharing our joys.

Do not abandon us; we need your protection to endure with faith and love whatever trials God sends us.

12

Caritas Prayer (*)

God our Father, who has power and goodness, please grant forces to the one who goes through trials; provide light to the one who seeks the truth, place in the heart of man, compassion, and charity.

God, give the traveler the guiding star, the afflicted the consolation, rest for the sick.

Father, give the guilty one the repentance, to the spirit the truth, to the child the guide, to the orphan, the father.

Lord, may Your goodness extend over everything that You created. Have mercy, my God, on those who do not know You; hope for those who suffer.

May Your kindness allow the consoling spirits to expand peace, hope, and faith everywhere.

God, a ray of light, a spark of Your love can illuminate the Earth; let us drink from the fountains of that fruitful and infinite goodness and all tears will dry up, and all the sorrows will disappear.

A single heart, a single thought will rise to You, like a cry of recognition and love.

Like Moses on the mountain, we await You with open arms:

Oh! Power! Oh! Goodness! Oh! Beauty! Oh! Perfection!

And, somehow, we wish to reach Your mercy.

God, bestow on us the conditions to reinforce progress so we may ascend towards You.

Confer on us the gift of pure charity, faith, and reasoning.

Endow us with the simplicity that will help our souls become a reflection of Your image.

Caritas

(*) Editor's Note: This prayer is not in "The Gospel According to the Spiritism", but in the work *Rayonnements la Vie Spirituelle*, by W. Krell, a book he wrote which was a great success upon its release and is still published in Belgium. This prayer of the Spirit Carita was psychographed on December 25, 1873, so more than 100 years have passed after that. Wallace Leal V. Rodrigues used the 2nd edition of *Union Spirit Belga/1949* which is printed CARRIT. In French or French-Belgian there is no double RR, therefore the correct name is *Cárita*. However, due to the process of making Portuguese this word, we will keep *Caritas*, which is the best-known in Brazil.

Prayer of the Ishmael Angel

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men on the Earth!
Jesus, the good and beloved Master, sustain Your humble
sinful brothers in the struggles of this world.

Blessed Angel of the Lord, open to us Your compassionate
arms; shelter us from evil, lift our spirits to the Majesty of
Your kingdom, and infuse in all our senses the light of
Your immense love.

Jesus, for Your sublime sacrifice, for Your martyrdoms on
the Cross, grant to those who are linked to the heavy
burden of matter, perfect guidance of the virtue path, the
only one by which we can meet You.

Jesus, peace to them, mercy to our enemies, and receive in
Your blessed bosom, the prayers of the last of Your
servants.

Blessed Star, Lighthouse of the immortal phalanges, purify
us with Your divine rays; wash us clean of all guilt, draw
us close to Your bosom, the blessed sanctuary of all loves.

If the world, with its errors, passions, and hatred, spreads
a path of thorns, darkening our horizon with the shadows
of sin, please shine brighter with Your mercy, so that,
secure and supported by Your Gospel, we can tread and
overcome the roughness of the path and reach the
dwellings of Your kingdom.

Friend Star, Lighthouse of sinners and the righteous open
Your divine breast and receive our supplication for the
Entire humanity. So be it.

14

To Ward off Evil Spirits

In the name of Almighty God, may the evil spirits keep away from us, and may the good spirits serve us as protection against them.

Evil spirits who inspire men with evil thoughts; impostors and lying spirits who deceive them; mocking spirits who amuse yourselves with their credulity, we repel you with all the power of our souls and do not heed your suggestions but implore God's mercy for you.

Good Spirits who deign to assist us, support us, so that we resist the influence of evil spirits and the light, so we don't become victims of their deception.

Preserve us from pride and presumption; remove from our hearts the jealousy, hatred, slander, and all feelings contrary to charity, which constitute the attraction of evil spirits.

15

Asking to Correct a Defect

You have given us, Lord God, the intelligence to distinguish between good and evil.

Now, as soon as we recognize that something is evil, we will become guilty if we do not strive to fight it.

Keep us from the pride that prevents us from recognizing our faults, and from the evil spirits who can incite us to persevere in them.

Among our imperfections, we recognize that we are particularly inclined to pride, and if we fail it is because of the habit of obeying it.

You did not make us guilty, for You are just; You created us with equal aptitude for both good and evil. If we go down the wrong path, it is due to the bad use of our free will.

If we have the freedom to do evil, we also have the freedom to do good, and, therefore, the liberty to change our way.

Our current defects are the remains of imperfections that we brought from previous existences, from which we can rid ourselves by our will and with the help of good spirits.

Good Spirits who protect us, and above all, you, Our Guardian Angels, grant us the conditions to resist evil suggestions to emerge victorious from the struggle.

Our defects are the obstacles that separate us from God, and each defect that is tamed is a step taken on the journey of progress that brings us closer to Him.

The Lord in His infinite mercy, deigned to offer us our present existence to enable us to progress.

Good spirits, please help us to make the most of it so that it will not be fruitless for us, and that when it pleases God to bring it to an end, we may come out of it better than when we came into it.

16

To Ask for Resistance Against Temptation

Almighty God, do not let us succumb to the temptations of evil. Benevolent spirits who protect us turn evil thoughts away from us.

Grant us resistance to evil suggestions.

If we succumb, we will deserve to atone for our faults in the current life or another, for we have the freedom to choose.

17

Thanksgiving for a Victory over Temptation

Lord God, we thank You for allowing us to emerge victorious from the struggle we have just sustained against evil.

May this victory give us the energy we need to resist further temptations.

We thank you, our Guardian Angels, for the assistance you have given us. May our submission to your advice make us worthy of your protection, which we so much need.

18

To Ask for Advice

In the name of Almighty God, good Spirits who protect us, and inspire us with the best resolution to take in the uncertainty in which we find ourselves.

Direct our thoughts toward the good and ward off the influence of those who might lead us astray.

19

In Life's Afflictions

Almighty God, who sees our miseries, deign to listen favorably to the wishes we address to You at this moment.

If our request is ill-considered, forgive us. If You consider it fair and helpful, may the good Spirits, executors of Your Divine Will come and help us fulfill these vows.

May they be vows of exaltation, Lord, and may Your will be done.

If our wishes are not fulfilled, it is in Your Design to try us, and we will submit without complaint.

Grant that discouragement may not take hold of us and that nor our faith and resignation be shaken by it.

20

Thanksgiving for a Favor Obtained

God, infinitely good, may Your name be blessed for the benefits You have granted us; we would be unworthy if we attributed them to chance or our merit.

To you good Spirits, who have been the executors of God's will, and to you, above all, our Guardian Angels, we thank you.

Divert us from the thought of being proud of the favor we have received and preserve us from making use of it other than for good.

Above all, we thank you for having...

21

Act of Submission and Resignation

Lord, You are supremely just.

Therefore, all the suffering in this world must have its cause and usefulness. We accept the affliction we have just undergone as atonement for our past faults and a test for the future.

Good Spirits who protect us grant us the force to bear it without complaint; make it a healthy warning to us, increasing our experience, combating pride, ambition, foolish vanity, and selfishness in us, thus contributing to our progress.

22

In Imminent Danger

Almighty God and my Guardian Angel, please help me!

If I do not survive, may God's will be done.

But if I remain alive, I pray that for the rest of my life, I can make amends for the wrongs I have committed and take responsibility for them.

23

Thanksgiving for Escaping Danger

My God, and my Guardian Angel, I thank You for the help You sent me when I was in danger. May this be a warning to me, making me understand the faults that attracted it.

I understand, Lord, that my life is in Your hands, and that You can take it away from me whenever it pleases You. Inspire me, through the good spirits who assist me the thought of making good use of the time You give me in this world.

My Guardian Angel, sustain me in my resolution to make reparation for my faults and to do all the good that is in my power, so that when God sees fit to call me, I may arrive in this world of spirits less burdened.

24

At the Moment of Sleep

My soul will find itself for a moment among other Spirits.

May the good ones come to help me with their advice. My Guardian Angel, make sure that when I wake up, I retain a lasting and healthy impression.

25

For Bedtime

Lord Jesus Christ, I ask You, with all the affection in my heart, to forgive the sins with which I have offended You this day.

Please, be lenient with me, giving me occasion to repent and correct myself by walking life along the path that You have chosen for my redemption.

Support me also, I ask You, in enjoying natural rest now, freeing me from bad and perverse dreams, as the temptations of evil Spirits that disturb the body and soul due to their misled representations and mistakes.

May I rise with You and resurrect from my sins through Your Doctrine study and the practice of Charity, and thus, deserve to be in Your grace.

So be it.

26

In Anticipation of Near Death

My God, I trust in You and Your infinite kindness. For this reason, I cannot believe that by giving the man the understanding of Your existence and the desire for the future, You would plunge them into nothingness.

I know that my body is the perishable covering of my soul, and that, when life extinguishes in it, I will awaken in the world of Spirits.

Almighty God, I feel that the bonds that bind my soul to its fleshly envelope break and that I will soon have to give an account of my use of this existence. I will answer for the consequences of the good and evil I have practiced.

There will be no more illusions or subterfuges.

My whole past will be revealed before my eyes and I will be judged according to my behavior.

I will take nothing of earthly goods: honors, riches, satisfactions of vanity and pride, everything that concerns the body will remain here; not even the tiniest portion will accompany me, none of it will be of the slightest use to me in the world of spirits.

I will only take what is related to the Spirit, i.e., the good and bad qualities, which will be weighed according to strict justice.

I will be judged more severely if, in my position on Earth, I had the opportunity to do good, and didn't do it.

God of mercy, may my repentance reach You.

Be gracious to involve me in Your indulgence.

If it pleases You to prolong my existence, let me take the rest of my life by making amends for the harm I have caused.

If irrevocable has struck its time, I take the consoling thought that I shall be permitted to redeem through new trials, all my errors, so I may, one day, merit deserve the happiness of the elect.

If I am not allowed to enjoy since now that happiness, given only to the just par excellence, I know that I still have hope through hard work, sooner or later, to achieve the goal I've longed for.

I know that the good Spirits and my Guardian Angel are at my side to welcome me; a moment longer and I will see them as They see me.

I know that I will find all those I loved on Earth if I am worthy of it, and that those I leave behind will join me so that one day we will be reunited in a better world. While I wait for that occasion, I will be with them.

I also know that I will meet those I have offended; may they forgive their resentment towards me ~ for my pride, cruelty, and injustice, and I will not be ashamed of their presence. I forgive all those who did or wished me harm on Earth. I bear no hatred towards them, and I also ask God to forgive them.

Lord, give me the force to leave without regret the coarse joys of this world, which in no way compare to the pure joys of the world I am going.

There, for the righteous, there is no torment, suffering, or misery; only the guilty suffer, but they still have hope.

Good spirits, and you, my Guardian Angel, don't let me faint at this supreme moment; shine the divine light to strengthen my faith.

27

For Our Enemies

Lord, we forgive F... for the evil he wanted to do to us, as we wish You to forgive us for the wrongs we have done to him.

If You have placed him in our path as a trial, may Your will be done.

Turn away from us, oh, Lord, the idea of cursing him and all evil desires against him.

Make us not rejoice in the evils that befall him, nor be grieved at the goods that reach him, so we do not stain our souls with thoughts unworthy of Christians.

May Your will, Lord, extend over him, and lead him to better feelings towards us.

Good Spirits inspire us to forget evil and the remembrance of good. May hatred, resentment, and other bad feelings have no access to our hearts, as perverse feelings belong to evil spirits, incarnate or disincarnate.

On the contrary, let us be ready to extend a fraternal hand to them, repaying evil with good, and helping them if we can.

We wish, to experience the sincerity of our words, to have a chance to be useful to them.

Though, above all, Lord, preserve us from doing it out of pride or ostentation, harassing him with a humiliating generosity that would make us lose the fruit of our good deed.

In such case we would deserve that Jesus' words were applied to us: "You have received your reward."

28

For Someone in Distress

Lord, Your goodness is infinite, soften the bitterness of F.'s position if it is Your will.

Good Spirits, in the name of Almighty God, we beg You to help him in his afflictions. If in his interest, he must experience them, make him understand that they are necessary for his progress.

Give him confidence in God and reassure him that they will become less bitter in the future.

Give him the forces not to succumb to the despair that would make them fruitless and his future position more painful.

Bring our thoughts to him so that they may sustain and encourage him.

29

Thanksgiving for a Benefit Granted to Someone Else

Lord, be blessed for the happiness that has come to F.

Good Spirits, make him see this as the effect of God's kindness.

If this benefit is a trial, inspire him to make good use of it by not boasting, so that this good does not become his loss in the future.

You, our good Guide, who protects us and only wishes our happiness, please remove envy and jealousy from our thoughts.

30

Thanksgiving for a Benefit Granted to

An Enemy of Ours

Lord, in Your justice, You have determined to gladden the heart of F.

We thank You for it, despite the harm he has done or tried to do to us.

If he takes advantage of this to humiliate us, we will accept it as a test to exercise charity.

Good Spirits, who protect us, do not allow us to be uncomfortable for this. Turn away from us envy and jealousy that darken; inspire us with generosity, which elevates. Humiliation is in evil, not in good, and we know that sooner or later justice will give each one what is following his deeds.

31

To the Enemies of Spiritism

Lord, You told us through Jesus, Your Messiah:

"Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness's sake; forgive your enemies, pray for those who persecute you", and He gave us an example by praying for his tormentors.

Taking his example, God, we implore Your mercy for those who do not know Your divine precepts, the only ones who can ensure peace in this world and the next. Like Christ, we beg You:

"Forgive them, our Father for they know not what they do."

Give us the conditions to endure with patience and resignation, as tests of our faith and humility: ridicule, insult, slander, and persecution; turn away from us every thought of reprisal, because the hour of Your Justice will come for everyone, and we await it, submitting ourselves to Your holy will.

For a Child who Has Just been Born

(To be done by the parents)

Spirit incarnated in our child's body, be welcome among us.

Almighty God, who has sent him, be blessed.

It is a deposit entrusted to us, and we will give an account of it one day. If he belongs to the new generation of good Spirits that must populate the Earth, we thank You, Lord, for this favor.

Good Spirits who came to preside over his birth and must accompany him during his life, do not abandon him. Drive away from him the shadow spirits who strive to induce him to evil; give him the forces to refuse evil suggestions, the courage to suffer with patience and resignation to the trials he must go through.

Another One

Lord God, You have entrusted us with the fate of one of Your Spirits.

Grant Lord, that we may become worthy of the task imposed on us.

Please, grant us also Your protection, enlightening our intelligence so that we can immediately discern the tendencies of the one we must prepare to ascend to Your peace.

33

For a Dying Man

Holy and Merciful God, here we have a Spirit about to leave his earthly shell to return to the spirit world ~ his true homeland.

May he enter there in peace protected by Your infinite mercy.

Good Spirits who accompanied him on Earth, do not abandon him at this supreme moment.

Give him the strength to endure with resignation the last sufferings he must undergo in this world for his future advancement.

Inspire him with good feelings so he may consecrate to repentance the last glimmer of intelligence that may come to him.

Direct our thoughts, so they can make the work of separation less painful, and that they bring to his soul, who is now leaving the Earth, the consolations of hope.

34

For Someone Who Has Just Died

Almighty God may Your mercy be extended upon the Spirit of F., whom You have just called into Your presence.

May the trials he suffered on Earth be considered, and may our prayers soften and shorten the sorrows he still must suffer.

Good spirits who have come to welcome him and you, above all, his Guardian Angel, who assists him by divesting him of matter, please give him light and consciousness of himself to take him out of the disturbance that occurs during the passage from bodily to spiritual life.

We ask you to inspire him to repent of the faults he has committed, and the desire to repair them for an eternal and fortunate life.

F., you have just entered the world of spirits and yet here you are in our midst: you see and hear us, because the only difference between us is that of the mortal body you have just left, which will soon be reduced to dust.

You have left the coarse envelope subject to the vicissitudes and death. Now, you retain only the ethereal shell, immortal and inaccessible to suffering.

Materially speaking, you are no longer part of this world: you enjoy a spiritual life, free from the afflicting miseries of Humanity.

You no longer have the veil that hides from our view the splendors of life to come from this moment on, you can, if you are allowed, contemplate new wonders, whereas we are still plunged into darkness.

If you have permission, you can travel through space and visit the worlds in complete freedom, while we drag ourselves painfully onto Earth, where our material body holds us back, like a heavy burden.

The horizon of infinity will unfold before you. In the presence of so much greatness, you will understand the vanity of our earthly desires, worldly ambitions, and the futile joys that men delight in.

Death is only the material separation of a few instants from the exile where God's will retains us and the duties we have to fulfill in this world.

We will follow you with our thoughts until we can be with you, just as you have already joined those who came before you.

If we cannot come to you, you can visit us: Come then to those who love you and whom you love.

Encourage us in the trials of life. Watch over those who are dear to you, protect them as much as you can.

Soften their sorrows by inspiring them with the thought that you are happier now, and the consoling certainty that the day will come when they will be together with you again.

In the world you are in, all earthly resentments must be extinguished.

Forgive those who have offended you, as they forgive you.

Another One

Almighty God, may Your mercy be extended to all our brothers and sisters who have just left the Earth: may Your light shine in their eyes; bring them out of darkness, open their eyes and ears; may Your good Spiritual Guides draw near to them and make them hear words of peace and hope.

Lord, however unworthy we may be, we dare to beg Your merciful indulgence on behalf of our brothers and sisters who have just been called from exile. May their return be like that of the prodigal son.

Forget, oh, my God, the faults they have committed to remember the benefits they have done.

We know that Your justice is immutable, but Your love is immense: we beg you to appease Your justice in that fountain of goodness that emanates from You.

May the light come to you, brothers and sisters who have just left the Earth; may the good spirits of the Lord approach you, surround you, and help you shake off earthly chains.

See and understand the greatness of our Master.

Submit yourselves without complaint to his justice, without despair to his mercy.

Brothers! May a meticulous examination of your past open the doors to the future, making you understand the faults you have left behind and the work that remains to repair them.

May God forgive you, and His good Spirits sustain and encourage you.

Your brothers and sisters on Earth are praying for you, and you can pray for them.

35

For the People We Love

Deign, Lord, to receive favorably the prayer we address to You on behalf of F.'s spirit.

Please give him a glimpse of Your divine light and make the path to eternal happiness easy for him.

Allow the good spirits to transmit to him our words and thoughts.

F. you who have been dear to us in this world, hear our voice that calls you to give a new pledge of our affection.

God allowed you to depart before us.

Regretting it would be selfish of us, as we should feel glad for not seeing you under earthly pain and suffering anymore.

So, we wait with resignation for the moment of our union in the happier world where you preceded us.

We know that our separation is only temporary and that, however long it may seem to us, its duration ends before the eternal happiness God promises to those spiritualized.

May the Goodness of the Lord preserve us from doing anything to delay this desired moment, thus sparing us the pain of not finding you when we leave our earthly captivity.

Oh! How sweet and consoling is the certainty that there is only a material veil between us hiding you from our sight, and you can be by our side, seeing and hearing us as you once did, or even better.

Don't forget us, just as we haven't forgotten you.

May our thoughts never cease to keep us together and may yours follow us and support us always.

May the Lord's peace be with you.

36

Family Prayer

Lord, we ask You to visit this dwelling and, please keep away from it all the insidiousness of the enemy.

May Your heavenly messengers always be with us, watch over this dwelling, and keep us in peace; may Your blessing always descend upon us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

37

For Suffering Spirits

Lord God, our Father, may Your mercy be extended to all the spirits who commend themselves to our prayers and those, who listen to our requests, especially those who have just passed into the Other Life and suffer the agony of disturbance.

Good Spirits, whose concern is the Good, please help them shed their fleshly wrappings and start in their new state. Shine a ray of hope in their eyes.

May the divine light enlighten them to understand their new situation well.

And to those who already know it, make them see the imperfections that keep them from peace and happiness.

Inspire everyone with the desire to spiritualize to hasten their advancement.

Make them understand that through reasoning, study, and prayer, they can shorten the time of their suffering.

Brothers and sisters, for whom we pray, may our words serve to enlighten you and give you relief.

May God, in His goodness, give you the strength to get out of your unfortunate situation, and make you understand that there are people on Earth who share your sufferings and wish you happiness.

Another One

We ask You, Lord God, to distribute Your love and mercy graces to all suffering incarnate or disincarnate spirits.

Be merciful on our weaknesses. We are fallible, but You have given us the strength to resist and overcome evil.

May Your mercy be extended to all those who couldn't resist their inferior tendencies and are still astray.

May Your good spirits surround them.

May Your light shine in their eyes, feel attracted by Your warmth, and come to prostrate themselves at Your feet, humble, submissive, and repentant.

We also ask You, Father of Mercy, for all our brothers and sisters who have not had the conditions to endure the earthly trials.

You have given us a burden to bear, Lord, and we should not lay it down but at Your feet. Nevertheless, our weakness is too much, and sometimes we lack courage along the way.

We ask mercy for the indolent servants who have abandoned the work before the time.

Let Your good spirits bring them relief, consolation, and hope for the future.

The sight of forgiveness is a comfort to the soul.

Show it, Lord, to the guilty who despair, and they, sustained by this hope, will seek forces in the greatness of their faults and sufferings to redeem their past and conquer the future.

38

For an Enemy Who Has Just Died

Lord, it was Your will to call the Spirit of F. before me.

I forgive him for the evil he did to me and the bad intentions against me.

May he repent now, for he no longer has this world's illusions; Your divine mercy, Lord, be extended upon him and remove from me the thought of rejoicing in his passing.

If I have offended him, may he forgive me, just as I forget the offenses he has done to me.

39

For a Criminal

Lord God of mercy, welcome this criminal who has just left the Earth. The justice of men has punished him but has not freed him from Yours if his heart has not felt remorse for his reckless actions.

Take away the veil that hides the gravity of his faults. May he, by repenting, become worthy of Your divine grace, which will calm the sufferings of his soul.

May our prayers and the intercession of good spirits, bring him hope and consolation; inspire him with the desire to make amends for his evil deeds in a new existence, and give him the courage he needs not to succumb to the new struggles in which he is engaged.

Have mercy on him, Lord.

40

For a Suicide

We know, Lord God, the fate reserved for those who violate Your holy laws by shortening their days, but we also know, Lord, that Your mercy is infinite.

Deign to extend it to the Spirit of F.

May our prayers and commiseration alleviate the bitterness of the sufferings he endures, for not having had the courage to wait for the end of his trials.

Good Spirits, whose mission is to assist the unfortunate, take him under your wings; inspire him to repent of his faults, and may your assistance give him the patience he needs to endure, with resignation, the new trials he must undergo to make amends!

Drive away from him evil spirits who could lead him back to evil, prolonging his suffering.

To you, whose happiness is the object of our prayers, may our commiseration mitigate the bitterness of these trials,

and give birth to hope for a better future.

This future is in your hands. Trust in the benevolence of God, whose bosom is always open to all repentant and is only inaccessible to hardened souls.

41

For Repentant Spirits

Oh! God of mercy, who accepts the sincere repentance of the incarnate or disincarnate sinner.

Here is a Spirit who used to take pleasure in doing evil, but now recognizes his mistakes and comes to the right path.

Deign, Lord, to receive him as the prodigal son and forgive him.

Good Spirits, to whose voice he has been deaf until now, but from this moment on he wants to hear, let him glimpse the happiness of the Lord's elects so that he persists in the desire to purify himself to reach that position.

Support him in his good resolutions and give him the energy to resist evil instincts.

Spirit of F., we congratulate you and the good spirits who helped you with your transformation.

If you once took pleasure in doing evil, it was because you didn't understand how sweet the sensation of doing good, and you felt too low to hope to achieve moral rehabilitation.

But, since you chose the right path, a new light dawned on you. You have started enjoying an unknown happiness, and hope dwells in your soul.

God always listens to the prayer of the repentant sinner.

He does not turn away anyone who seeks shelter under His infinite mercy.

To enter totally into His grace, apply yourselves henceforth not doing evil but doing good and, above all, to make reparation for the evil you have done.

Once you have satisfied God's justice, each good deed you do will erase one of your past faults. You have already taken the first step.

The more you advance, the gentler and easier the path will become.

Therefore, persevere, sure that, one day, you will be glorious among the good and happy Spirits.

42

For Hardened Spirits

Lord God, deign to turn Your eyes of kindness to the imperfect spirits who are still in the darkness of ignorance and do not know about You, especially the Spirit of F.

Good Instructors, help us make them understand that by leading people astray, obsessing and tormenting them, they prolong their own suffering.

The example of the happiness the Good Spirits enjoy can be an incentive for them to leave the wrong path.

Spirits who rejoice in evil, you are listening to the prayer we are saying for you. It can prove that we wish to benefit you, even if you persist in evil.

You are unhappy, for it is impossible to be happy doing evil, so why continue to suffer, when it is up to you to stop suffering?

See the happiness of the good Spirits around you.

Wouldn't it be better for you to enjoy the same happiness?

You may say this is impossible, but nothing is impossible when you want it to be, for God has given you, like all creatures, the freedom to choose between good and evil, that is, between happiness or misfortune, and no one is condemned to do evil.

If you can do evil, you can also do good, and you will enjoy happiness.

Turn your gaze to God, raise your thoughts to Him for a single moment, and a ray of His divine light will descend to enlighten you.

Say these simple words with us:

MY GOD, I REPENT, FORGIVE ME.

Try to repent and do good instead of evil. You will immediately see that God's mercy will envelop you and bring an unknown sense of well-being to replace the anguish you suffer.

Taking just one step in the right direction will make the rest of the path easy. You will understand how much time of happiness was wasted due to your own faults.

A future full of hope opens before you and makes you forget your miserable past, full of turmoil and moral torture that would have been hell for you if it lasted forever.

The day will come when these tortures will be such that you will want to make them stop.

But the more you persist in your hardening, the longer that day will take.

Do not believe that you will always remain in the state you are in. No, that's impossible.

You have two prospects before you: one is to suffer much more than now. The other is that you will be as happy as the good spirits around you. The first is inevitable if you persist in your obstinacy; a small effort from you is enough to get you out of this situation.

So, hurry up, because every day of delay is a day lost for your happiness.

Good Spirits, make our words find access to this Spirit, so that they may help him draw closer to God.

We beg you in the name of Jesus Christ, who had such great power over evil spirits.

43 ~ For patients

(To be done by the sick person himself)

Lord God, You are all justice. The illness that has pleased You to send me, I deserve it, for one does not suffer without cause.

I trust, Lord, for my cure with Your infinite mercy.

If it pleases You to restore me to health, may Your holy name be blessed; if, on the other hand, I must still suffer, may Your holy name likewise be blessed.

I submit myself without complaint to Your sacred will, for everything You do is only for the good of Your creatures. Grant, Lord, that such illness may be a healthy warning that will force me to reflect seriously on my conduct.

I accept it as an atonement, for my previous lives and a test of my faith and submission to Your sacred will.

Another (For the Sick)

We beg You, Lord, to look with compassion on the F.'s sufferings, and deign to make them cease, if it is in Your will. Good Spirits, ministers of the Almighty, assist us in our desire to relieve him; direct our thoughts so that they will pour a healing balm on his body and consolation into his soul.

Inspire him with patience and submission to God's will. Give him the strength he needs to bear his pains with Christian resignation, so they will not lose the fruit they can obtain from this trial.

Another One

(Made by the healing medium)

My God, if You deign to use me, despite how unworthy I am, as a healing medium, to alleviate or even cure this suffering, if that is Your will, for I have faith in You.

Without Your support, I can do nothing.

Allow the good Spirits to transmit their healthy fluids to me, so I can transfer them to this patient. Turn away from me every thought of pride and selfishness that could alter their purity.

For the Obsessed

(To be done by the obsessed himself)

My God, allow the Good Spirits to rid me of the evil spirit that presently harasses me. If it is revenge for what I have done to him, and You allow it as a punishment, let me suffer the consequences of my fault.

May my repentance bring me Your forgiveness and my release. But whatever the reason, I implore Your divine mercy for him.

Deign, Lord, to make the path of progress easier for him, which will lead him away from evil thoughts.

May I, in turn, lead him to better feelings, repairing evil with good.

But, oh Lord, I know that my imperfections cause me to be vulnerable to the influence of bad spirits.

Give me, Lord, the light I need to know them; fight in me what blinds me, preventing me from seeing my defects.

How unworthy I am, Lord, that I even go as far as being dominated by an evil spirit!

Lord God, may this blow to my vanity serve as a lesson for the future: may it strengthen me in the resolution to purify myself through the practice of goodness, charity, and

humility, to be able to oppose an obstacle to evil influences from now on.

Lord, make me strong enough to support this trial with calm and resignation.

I understand that, like others, this test must contribute to my progress if I don't lose its fruits by complaining, as it offers me an opportunity to show my submission in exercising charity towards an unfortunate brother by forgiving him for the evil he has done to me.

Another One

(For the obsessed)

Almighty God, please grant us the power to free F. from the spirit that obsesses him. If it is Your will to finish this ordeal, provide us the grace to speak to this Spirit. Good Spirits, who assist us, and you, his Guardian Angel, lend us your assistance and help us rid him of the impure fluid surrounding him.

In the name of Almighty God, we ask the evil spirit that torments him to withdraw.

45

Prayers and Exhortations

(For the obsessing spirit)

God, infinitely good, we implore Your mercy for the Spirit who obsesses F. Allow him, Lord, to glimpse Your divine lights so he may see the false path he has taken.

Dear Friends, help us make him understand that he has everything to gain by doing good.

Spirits who rejoice in tormenting F. listen to us, for we speak to you in the name of God. If you want to reflect, you will understand that evil cannot overcome good and that you cannot be mightier than good spirits.

They can deliver F. from all the attacks from you; if they don't, it's because F. has an ordeal to suffer, but when this ordeal is over, the good Spirits will take away from you all the action you exert on him; the harm you do to him, instead of harming him, will serve for his advancement and he will be therefore happy.

In this way, your evil will become a pure loss to you and will fall upon you.

God, who is omnipotent, and the Higher Spirits, who are more powerful than you, will be able to put an end to this obsession, and your tenacity will come to an end before this supreme authority.

But it is precisely due to God's benignity that He wants to leave you the merit of giving in of your own free will.

It is a delay that has been conceded to you.

Take this opportunity, or you will suffer deplorable consequences.

Great punishment and cruel suffering for your stubbornness await you.

You will be forced to beg the mercifulness and prayers of your victim, who already forgives and prays for you, which is a great merit before God and will hasten his deliverance.

Reflect, then, while there is still time, as the justice of God will fall on you as on all rebellious spirits.

Remember that the evil you are doing will necessarily end, while if you persist in hardening yourselves, your sufferings will ceaselessly increase.

When you were on Earth, didn't you think it was stupid to sacrifice a great good for a small momentary gladness?

It must be the same now that you are Spirits. What profit do you get from your behavior? ~ The sad pleasure of tormenting someone, which does not prevent you from being unhappy and even more unhappy in the future.

Apart from all that, you can see what you're missing: look at the good spirits around you and see around you and see if their fate is not preferable to yours.

The happiness they feel, you can enjoy when you want it; do you know what it takes to do that?

Begging God and doing good instead of evil.

We know you can't change from one moment to the next, but God doesn't ask for the impossible.

What He wants is goodwill.

So, try, and we will help you, so that we soon may say the prayer of repentant spirits, and you do not place yourself among the evil Spirits, and we may see you among the good ones.

46

Prayer to God

Lord God, allow the good spirits who surround us to aid us when we suffer, and assist us when we falter.

Lord, let them inspire us with faith, hope, and charity.

May they be a support, hope, and proof of Your mercy for us.

Finally, make us find in them the energy we lack in the trials of life, the faith that saves, and the love that consoles.

47

Letter to Jesus

My Master and Lord Jesus.

Praise be to Your holy Spirit!

In the difficult moments of my life, I have attached to You, and I never stopped deserving of Your compassion.

In the moments of joy and abundance in my life, I've never ceased giving thanks to You and singing praise be to Your Incomparable Spirit.

Help me, Lord, in my shortcomings.

Fill in my flaws, fill my clears with Your good pleasure, and do not allow that for my defects be Your Doctrine scandalized and Your Word tainted.

I am Your disciple, and I love You as a faithful dog loves its master.

I am an ignorant child. Pity me!

Bless all the Spirits, my brothers, who sustain me, and give them the power to work with me in Your love.

Praise be to God, our Heavenly Father, whom I know, Lord, through You, and whom I love and worship, and keep his precept.

CAIRBAR SCHUTEL

(10 p.m., March 19, 1936)

VIII

FINAL NOTE

The outcome of our prayers depends on our intentions and how much we understand the situation.

The purer and nobler our intentions while addressing God, Jesus, and the Good Spirits, the better the results of our prayers.

We should do whatever we can to benefit ourselves and others, and if we cannot, God, Jesus, and the Good Spirits will do it for us.

That is what we understand from the Master's words:

"Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened unto you."

Love works wonders, and prayer filled with humility and love can remove mountains and move sycamore trees.

If we abide by Jesus' word, we will have his peace. ~ LIS.

END